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# On a CIA Office

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WASHINGTON—You wouldn't think it was the CIA. But it is. The gold-painted letters on the wooden plaques on the door to the office in the building a block from the White House simply read "Joint Planning Activity, U. S. Army Element, Joint Operations Group, SD-7753, Restricted Area."

You won't find it listed in the phone book nor recorded on the register of tenants in the lobby to the 12-story office building.

But Washington writers David Wise and Thomas Ross found it and further found that it was the headquarters for domestic operations of the CIA. This disclosure is part of their new book for Random House entitled "The Espionage Establishment," an excerpt of which appears in next week's Saturday Evening Post.

According to Ross and Wise, the existence of the office at 1750 Pennsylvania Av. NW flies in the face of CIA assurances to Congress that it is involved only in foreign operations. The two writers contend that the headquarters was created in 1961 when the "home-front" activities of the agency became so extensive that a separate command post was needed.

## Fountains Out Front

The office is located on the fifth floor of a burnished metal and glass building with gurgling tubular fountains out front.

It stands one block away from the Executive Mansion and next door to the United States Information Agency.

The other tenants share the common adventure on windy days of trying to skip by the spitting springs unmolested by cold spray. That brush with fate over, they circulate through the building to one of the routine selection of offices—law firms, life insurance companies, a university public relations office, lobbyist's offices and newspaper bureaus.

## Simple Foyer

But on the fifth floor, things aren't so workaday routine. Alighting there one encounters a set of two headlights mounted on the wall opposite the elevator. Called a "Watchmaster," the device is designed to floodlight the hallway if the main source of power should for some reason be cut.

There are two doors, one unmarked and locked, the other bearing the plaque with the tongue-twisting title. A buzzer

above it is affixed to the door-sill.

Behind the door is a small simple foyer with an unoccupied receptionist's desk and a table with back-issue magazines on top. Dusty pictures of the Army's top command hang from the walls.

Straight ahead is a wall which reaches three-quarters the way to the ceiling. Perched above it to the right is a fish-eye mirror permitting persons on either side of the wall to see one another. Another buzzer with a sign, "ring for receptionist" beckons.

The visitor pushes the button, and in a moment the door in the wall is opened and a pretty black-haired girl appears. The visitor says he has questions to ask about the operation of Joint Planning Activity, U. S. Army Element, Joint Operations Group, SD-7753. The girl says she'll have to ask "my bosses," and they're not there now and will the visitor not return until the next day.

## A Quick Retreat

"You'll come back tomorrow?" she asks, and without waiting for a reply retreats behind the door.

This office, known within the agency as "Domestic Operations Division" is not the only CIA outlet in Washington, despite the agency's public claim that all operations in this area are conducted from behind its \$46,000,000 building in suburban Langley, Va.

Wise and Ross say that an employment office is located at 1016 16th St. NW, barely a block away from the Russian embassy. They reveal further that blue buses with "Langley-via 1717 H St." on the front—familiar to most Washingtonians—are agency vehicles connecting the different offices.

with the words "right here"